

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 30, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

As you know, I have repeatedly emphasized as a major goal of U.S. foreign policy the importance of meeting basic human needs -- in particular, the alleviation of world hunger and malnutrition. In order to develop a major initiative in this area, I have formed a World Hunger Working Group headed by my Special Assistant, Peter Bourne, to coordinate a White House study of world hunger with other U.S. domestic and international food and agricultural policies. Peter Bourne, representing the Working Group, will participate on the soon to be formed Cabinet Level Committee on Food and Agricultural Policy, chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Working Group consists of Executive Office Organizations -- National Security Council (NSC), Domestic Council (DC), White House Intergovernmental Relations Office (WHIGA), Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Council of Economic Advisors (CEA), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of the Special Assistant for Consumer Affairs (OSACA), Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ), and Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations (STR) -- as well as representation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), State, Agency for International Development (AID), Treasury, and Commerce.

The purpose of the Working Group is to prepare a list of options to combat world hunger and malnutrition with the full participation of several departments and agencies. This analysis will be the basis for a Presidential statement outlining the following goals:

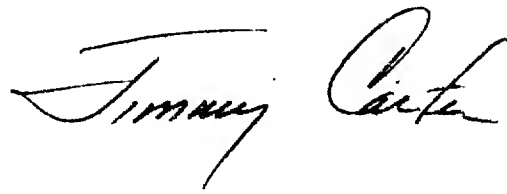
- to provide more equitable access to available food and to improve nutritional well-being;
- to increase the supply of food relative to need;
- to offer food assistance to those unable to purchase enough food for adequate nutrition;
- to assure a decision-making process, management, and resources adequate to implement these policies.

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Departments and agencies affected by this memorandum should submit to the chairman of the Working Group their recommendations by close of business on October 21st.

The Working Group will review the recommendations and develop a set of U.S. government policy options designed to make a significant impact on world hunger. Departments and agencies will have an opportunity to comment on the Working Group's list of options before it is submitted to me.

I would appreciate your cooperation to enable the Working Group to complete its task on or about November 11th.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

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## EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

## Routing Slip

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7	DDO				
8	D/DCI/NI		X		
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11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
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Remarks: Two related Presidential directives attached. Presume we may be called upon for some input given NSC membership.

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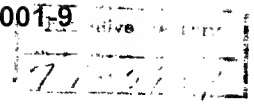
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Executive Secretary  
4 Oct 77

Date

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This Administration is determined to develop food and agricultural policies which help the people who need help most, both in the United States and abroad. By encouraging efficient agricultural production, especially on the family farm, we can ensure reasonable incomes for producers and fair prices for consumers. An efficient productive system will also help us meet the demands of foreign markets. Our policy should give our producers the greatest possible access to foreign markets, while helping poor nations improve their own ability to produce and distribute food.

The Secretary of Agriculture has primary responsibility in the Executive Branch for developing policies and actions in food and agriculture. In order to exercise this responsibility, the Secretary of Agriculture must weigh and balance interests represented in other parts of the Executive Branch. Accordingly, I am directing the Secretary of Agriculture to form a Working Group on Food and Agricultural Policy. This Working Group will be chaired by the Secretary's designee and will be composed of representatives at the level of assistant secretary from these organizations:

Department of State  
Department of the Treasury  
Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Special Representative  
for Trade Negotiations  
Agency for International Development  
Council of Economic Advisors  
Office of Management and Budget  
National Security Council

The Secretary of Agriculture may invite representatives of other organizations in the Executive Branch to serve in the Working Group.

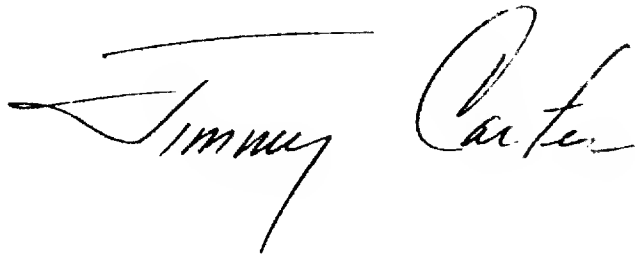
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In consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the White House Domestic Policy Staff, the Working Group will develop an agenda for policy considerations on domestic and international food and agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Domestic Policy Staff, will inform me of policies adopted and actions taken and will refer to me policy options on issues requiring Presidential decision.

A subcommittee of this Working Group will serve as the vehicle for developing an Administration policy on world hunger. This Subcommittee will report its findings and recommendations directly to me and to the Secretary of Agriculture.

To insure coordination, I am asking the Domestic Policy Staff to inform other organizations in the Executive Branch of policy issues to be addressed and decisions made on domestic and international food and agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture and the Domestic Policy Staff will provide staff for the Working Group on Food and Agricultural Policy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.